

Quote

THE WEEKLY DIGEST

Volume 8

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WITHIN THE WEEK

The capture of Metz, and the current encircling movements may mark a turning point in the war. The daily dispatches from now on should be watched and analyzed with a great deal of care. It must be borne in mind that the current campaign was designed as a SMASHING blow at the enemy. If it succeeds in developing its full potentialities, the backbone of German resistance will be broken in Dec.

The foregoing is not a prognosis, but a mere statement of fact. Whether the campaign WILL so develop, remains to be seen. It was disastrously delayed (because of supply difficulties) and the bad weather is now upon us. The going will be hard and tough, but there is a possibility of routing the enemy in the course of the present drive. If there is not substantial deterioration before 1st of the year—or before the force of present offensive has spent itself—then it seems not unlikely that war will go into the Spring. Another SMASHING offensive can hardly be executed short of that time.

ANTWERP: We pointed, some wks ago, to importance of this harbor, but public does not yet appreciate full significance. It fell to us in nick of time. Soon we shall have to abandon for the Winter

the improvised beach harbors thru which bulk of D-Day material was landed. We now have, of course, Cherbourg and Marseille, but these are far removed from current operational field. Antwerp has been dredged and de-mined. Some limited use of the port may be undertaken very soon. We may be sure that enemy appreciates strategic value and will do anything possible to wreck it.

RUSSIA: We have always been entirely confident that Russia would participate in the war in Asia. But she is going to make that entry count—probably as a political tool to consolidate her position in Europe. Topic will undoubtedly be on the agenda at next "Big Three" conference, which, it now appears, may be delayed until late Winter.

CHINA: There's hope that Chiang's readjusted cabinet may be a move in direction of greater unity. Tipoff will be whether negotiations are now reopened with Chinese Communists. The situation does look much better. Do not be deluded by news dispatches on the Nelson mission. The development of steel industry is important, significant—but chiefly in a postwar sense. It is unlikely that much can be done now that will affect current conflict.



SHIFTING SANDS

Livest topic in Washington now is wages. And it will probably hold limelight for wks to come. View of Stabilization Director Vinson that living costs must not rise, plus action of OPA in tightening price control mach'y heralded by some as indication that gov't will delay any basic change in "little steel" wage formula until end of German war. Talk now is that restive groups may get some indirect emoluments which can be made retroactive, without technically breaching formula. . . Matter of fact, both labor and industry have, in effect, by-passed war wages and progressed to consideration of peace proposals. Industry is prodding WLB to authorize lower wages for reconversion period. Labor organizing to put everyth'g it has into drive for more money. It's better than even bet labor's philosophy will prevail. Public assumption that war wages will drop with the coming peace will probably prove naive chimera.



FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE MENTALLY MAROONED

Quote

"HE WHO NEVER QUOTES, IS NEVER QUOTED"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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"Hitler has contracted jaundice and has turned yellow."—SWISS RADIO dispatch, providing high holiday for American columnists.

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"I asked some teen-age girls in Paris if they knew Frank Sinatra and they said they'd never heard of him."—BING CROSBY, recently ret'd from European tour.

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"I am not prepared or willing to attach any significance to the fact."—O C HULLETT, pres, celebrated Burlington Liars' club, commenting on unusual number of entries from women in annual "biggest lie" contest.

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"I expect a Japanese peace-feeler at any time. . . The high-up monkeymen know the handwriting is on the wall. It is most important now that they do not weaken back home, because there must not be a compromise peace."—Adm Wm F HALSEY, commander 3rd U S Fleet in W Pacific.

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"It is no exaggeration to say that the future happiness of every American for the next two generations depends on the efforts and understanding of all of us in this gigantic job of readjustment."—Gen Wm KNUDSEN, urging industrial workers to remain at their jobs.

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"Today we are firing ammunition that we would not have used until next Feb or March if we had been content with slower advances, with less crushing victories, or if we had been ready to sacrifice soldiers to save materials."—Gen'l DWIGHT EISENHOWER, speaking on Army Hr broadcast over NBC, appealing for top-speed ammunition production at home.

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"Because of increased requirements, and because of threatening transportation trouble, our best estimate is that supplies will be no more than enough to meet military demands plus civilian requirements on the present ration basis."—HAROLD L ICKES, petroleum administrator, refuting reports that fuel oil supplies warrant larger civilian rations.

"MAY WE

Quote

YOU ON THAT?"

"Excellent! I like people who can rise again!"—Gen CHAS DE GAULLE, on seeing *Snow White* revived by a kiss in the Disney movie. (Quoted by NOEL F BUSCH in *Life*.)

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"The most refreshing thing in your country is to meet people who do not want to be Cabinet Ministers."—Dr RAMON GRAU SAN MARTIN, new pres of Cuba, on a visit to U S.

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"There's a huge animal with a big tail, glaring at us!"—Mrs HELENE SIGMAN, Kansas City, telephoning police from her 2nd floor apt. (Four policemen, rushing to the scene, captured an opossum.)

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"Where are those steaks?"—Query of a German lieutenant, leading 75 men surrendering to American forces in Maritime Alps. (During a 3 hr armistice for consultation, an American officer had mentioned casually to the Nazi that his outfit was having steak for supper.)

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"That kiss didn't mean anything. You can see my husband isn't responding. He hasn't got his arms around her."—Mrs Wm LAY, of Chicago, who discovered a newspaper picture of her husband, being kissed by a French girl during a liberation celebration.

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"I am gratified to learn of the President's denial."—Dr J WHITCOMB BROUGH, Sr, pres, Glendale (Calif) Ministerial ass'n, one of several religious groups to protest Mr Roosevelt's use of profanity in Hyde Pk election booth (as reported in *Time*). Mr Roosevelt assured Washington newsmen this wk that he said nothing stronger than "damn."

"It is too big for my eyes to see how big it is."—CECILE DIONNE, one of the quintuplets, ans'g the query: "How big is the earth?"

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"Never have so many pursued so few with so much and obtained so little."—Soldier parodying CHURCHILL's RAF classic in comment on shortage of girls around army camps.

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"Earning power based on productivity, not yearning power based on dreams, is going to be the ultimate test of an American st'd of living."—W P WEISENBURGER, exec v-p, Nat'l Ass'n of Mfgs.

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"Thinking ahead of the crowd may be the smart shrewdness of the politician; but thinking against the crowd requires the stern spirit of the prophet."—Rev EDMUND MELVILLE WYLIE.

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"Just who is putting me off NBC's air, and why?"—UPTON CLOSE, radio commentator, who asserts "certain interests" have been gunning for him as a result of views expressed. NILES TRAMMEL, NBC pres, says Close used "nice cover-up words" when he asserted that "network operations" alone were responsible for the removal.

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"Large old concerns must be prevented from increasing already over-large pools of dead capital. . . Little men with big ideas must be given a chance to employ labor. . . All that you have won so far is a bridgehead on the opportunity of the future."—HENRY A WALLACE, v-p of U S, addressing CIO convention in Chicago.

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"Even at a time when we are concerned with the destruction of Europe, every American has a latent hope that some of its beauty and charm will emerge unscathed. . . It is a tragic paradox that the Americans, who so love and perpetuate beauty, must destroy it to obtain the highest of beauties—peace."—BERTITA HARDING, biographer of the house of Hapsburg, whose latest book, *The Lost Waltz*, has just been published.

"The teacher-dominated classroom is still all too prevalent in the U.S."—JAS MARSHALL, N Y City Board of Education.

"In the future, let us use the term, 'employer-labor shutdown' to describe work stoppages which result from a dispute."—*Economic Outlook* (CIO monthly) suggesting synonym for unsavory word "strike."

"How can they do this to me? I just bought a new log book!"—Col DON J M BLAKESLEE, commenting on his forced retirement with a record of 1300 hrs of combat—more than any other American fighter pilot in the European area.

"The curve of production has been upward, but it isn't up as sharply as the curve of the doughboy's advance."—Lt-Gen'l BREHON SOMERVEL, commander, Army service forces, addressing CIO convention in Chicago, asserting that 100,000 add'l workers are needed in war plants.

"The fight with arms merely yields momentary decisions; the fight with birth rates decides the fate of nations for a long time to come."—HANS HERTELS, Nazi commentator, announcing 50,000 more births in Germany during 1st 6 mo's of '44 compared with same period of '43.

"Ifen somebody gits et up, I reckon you'll believe it."—JOS JOHNSON, farmer near Vanceburg, Ky, appealing to local Bd of Education to keep his children home from school until wild cats are cleaned out of Lewis county. (County judge had ruled: "Catamount or no catamount, the children must be sent to school.")

"When the full story can be told MacArthur's campaigns will rank with those of Napoleon, Wellington and Marlborough as classics. They will be studied at military academies all over the world for generations to come as models of jungle warfare."—WM COURTNEY, veteran British war correspondent, who has been with MACARTHUR in all his Pacific campaigning.

"Our will to resist is all we have left. . . Whoever sabotages that must be smashed."—*Scorpion*, Nazi party publication.

"The American home front is on the verge of collapse."—Japanese propaganda broadcast, based on current cigaret shortage, which the bulletin brands as "extremely serious."

"If he is crazy enough to pay that kind of money, I'll take it!"—FRANK SINATRA comment on an Eastern "big shot" who offered singer \$10,000 to appear at a private party.

"He didn't bother our cash—just helped himself to a supply of freshly-cleaned clothing."—Executive of Globe Ldy & Dry Clg Co, Kansas City, announcing a recent robbery.

"Few outside the profession know how ill prepared this generation of doctors is."—Dr EDWIN P LEHMANN, prof of surgery, U of Va school of medicine.

"Tell your President not to go out in the rain. I know what he'd say to me if I did."—Message sent by WINSTON CHURCHILL to Pres ROOSEVELT, by Rt Rev G ASHTON OLDHAM, Episcopal bishop of Albany, N Y, who just ret'd from England. (Reference is to Pres's pre-election parade at N Y City.)

"(Terrorism in Palestine threatens) to undermine all that Jewish effort has achieved in the Holy Land."—Dr CHAIM WEIZMANN, pres, World Zionist organization, echoing CHURCHILL hope that Palestine Jewry may find "concerted ways and means of extirpating terrorism once and for all."

"In your relations with the civilian population, give up the practices that you have been used to following in occupied countries. Act toward our people just as you would like someone to act toward you and your beloved ones."—Editorial in a German army paper, warning German soldiers that they are fighting in their own country now, and should temper their harsh civilian techniques.

"The U S is going to double its production of B-29s and send them to Japan as 4-ton calling cards."—Lt-Gen WM S KNUDSEN, director, Air Technical command.

"Child's auto—swap for cigarets, or will sell."—Classified ad inserted in Pittsburgh, Pa paper, by man whose 4-yr-old son had outgrown the toy. (He traded for a carton of cigarets and cash.)

"God himself has made the nations interdependent for their full life and growth. It is not, therefore, a question of creating an internat'l community but of organizing it."—From a statement issued in the names of Catholic Bishops of U S, by administrative board of Nat'l Catholic Welfare conference.

"For 4 long yrs, thru our propaganda, we have told the people of Europe to break all German laws. . . We have educated Europe's people to patriotic lawlessness. It is only logical, now that they are liberated, that if they don't like the new laws of the new gov'ts they will try to take the law into their own hands."—A British brigadier, in Brussels, commenting on unrest in Belgium.



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MINING THE MAGAZINES

We Come as Conquerors—Editorial in *Stars and Stripes*, daily newspaper of the U S armed forces in the European theater of operations.

The "Any gum, chum" racket has now been exported to Germany. Which poses a neat problem.

Your old man and mine fed gum to the German kids in '19. We're back fighting these kids today. One of the reasons is that Germans are convinced that we have gum and they haven't. We're a "have" nation—they're a "have-not" nation. We own lots of gum trees or whatever it is gum grows on—while Germans are squeezed into a small gumless area without enough spearmint, peppermint or tutti-frutti to make life bearable.

The Germans' hankering for gum—or land to grow gum and other stuff on—has led to 5 wars in 75 yrs—all started by Germans. This time we're out to knock the gum-hunger out of the Germans once and for all.

So what happens when we roll into the Fatherland and start passing out the gum? To Germans it's more proof of how rich the Americans are—and how dumb. Why dumb? Because only dumb, decadent people would cross the Atlantic ocean, fight across half of Europe, leave several tens of thousands of their best manhood in cemeteries—only to turn into gum-dispensing machines the minute they hit their target.

Ike Eisenhower laid down the line on the gum-chewing business. In his proclamation to the Germans, now being posted in German towns, he says: "We come as conquerors."

AGE—Youth

Walter Pitkin tells us that life begins at 40. Why? Why not 60 or 80? Only a poor wine grows sour with age.—JOS R ORGEL, "They're Neither Too Young Nor Too Old," *Scholastic*.

AIR AGE

On a British airfield where the new jet-propelled planes were recently put on display, a girl, carrying a cup of tea, got too near the intake duct at the front of the ship. Before she knew what had happened, her dress had been yanked off. She was standing there, ludicrously holding onto the saucer. The tea, complete with cup and spoon, had disappeared, along with her filmy garment, into the suction pipe.—*American Wkly.*

ARTIFICES—Feminine

A man teacher may think that a turban headband worn by a girl makes her look cute, but the woman teacher is more likely to say: "That girl got up too late to comb her hair!"—CARROLL C HALL, "Teachers vs Students," *Seventeen*, 11-'44.

CHURCH—Contributions

A Negro preacher announced from the pulpit that a brother had neglected to lock the door of his chicken house the night before, with the result that most of his fowls were missing.

"I has my sp'icions who stole dem chickens," said the parson, "an' I also b'lieves dat sech a low-down pusson ain' nowadays likely t' put money in de collection plate dat will now be passed."

The result was a record-breaking collection. The pastor viewed it with approval and continued: "Now, bred'n, I don' want yo' dinners spoilt by wonderin' where dat brothah lives dat don' lock his chickens up. Dat brothah jes don' exist. He is jes' a parable fo' pu'poses ob finances."—*The Tattler*.

COMPULSION—German

An SS Elite Guard prisoner told Americans in Belgium that when he was graduated from a Saxony high school, all the boys in his class were locked in a room and told to choose their careers. Each was

handed 2 statements, told to sign one. The 1st said: "I hereby volunteer to join the Waffen SS." The 2nd: "I refuse to join the Waffen SS because I'm a coward and a bastard."—*PM*.

Beautiful Words

"Here, have one of MY cigars."

"No, I'll pick you up in MY car. . ."

"Will a lower be all right?"

"I have a good cleaning woman that I think you might be able to get a couple of mornings a week."—RUTH MILLETT, *Scripps-Howard Newspapers*.

CONSCIENCE

The best applause is that which comes from your own conscience.—*Forbes*.

CULINARY ART—Masculine

"Ah don't mind messes de men folks makes in mah kitchen, providin' dey eats de messes," said Floralee.—ARTHUR H DEUTE, "Messes—Man Made," *Vogue*, 11-15-'44.

DISCIPLINE

Years ago, along the Russian Volga, famine-stricken peasants, eating only grass and clay, would not touch certain sacks of grain. Those sacks contained seed for spring sowing. "Russian peasants," said their old priest proudly, "will not steal from the future!"—WILLISTON M FORD, "November Perspective," *Inspiration*, 11-'44.

EDUCATION

The schools of the U S are being conducted on 2% of the nat'l income. Nearly 5% of our income is expended for alcoholic liquors.—ROBT H WYATT, exec sec'y, Indiana State Teachers ass'n.

EDUCATION—Juvenile

One advantage of the comics is said to be that they enlarge a child's vocabulary. What good are words to a child without the emotion and feeling back of them?—MRS. FRANCES CLARKE SAYERS, N Y Public Library, quoted in "200 Yrs of Children's Books," *Christian Science Monitor*, 11-11-'44.

FAME

Someone from a Gov't agency recently phoned Pan-American Union photo library for photos of Simon Boliver, Gen Jose de San Martin, Argentine liberator, and Carmen Miranda.

The 1st two were dispatched with the suggestion that Senorita Miranda's press agent would be best source for a photo of the exotic singer.

Later, the same Gov't functionary called back: "There was a little mistake about that picture of Carmen Miranda. Instead, could you send us one of the Venezuelan hero, Gen'l Francisco Miranda?"—*Inter-American*.

FLATULENCE

American movies are now being dubbed into French again. In one scene, recently, Chas Boyer made love to a glamour gal, saying "Darling, from the moment I saw you with your hair haloed in the moonlight, your skin rich as honey, your smile a beckoning angel's, I adored you!"

The scene apparently made the French dubber so ill, he cut it down to two words — "Hello, Cherie!"—*Hollywood Reporter*.

FREEDOM—of Press

I believe that an untrammelled flow of truthful information from country to country will have a retarding effect at least in the development of the circumstances which lead to war. Wars are usually brewed in the dark. The darkness of ignorance, mistrust and dislike stirred up between nations by the distribution of propaganda instead of news. HUGH BAILLIE, pres of United Press.

GENIUS

Paderewski gave a command performance for Queen Victoria. "Ah," said the Queen at its conclusion, "Mr Paderewski, you are a genius!"

"Perhaps, Your Majesty," said the pianist, "but before I was a genius, I was a drudge."—*Read*.

GOD—Presence

Just as you tune in your favorite radio station, you can tune in on station GOD. There, awaiting, is

unlimited Goodness, Love, Poise, Peace. "Believe and receive" is a good working slogan.—*The Vagabond*.

HOUSING—Shortage

Local newspapers headlined the murder of a girl living in one of Filmville's ritziest ap'ts. Within the next 24 hrs, the house mgr tells me, more than 50 people telephoned to apply for her ap't.—JIMMIE FIDLER, Hollywood col.

INTERNATIONALISM

We must become big enough to write our addresses not as the U S, or England, or China, or Russia, but as "John Citizen, Earth-Planet, Universe."—WILFRED A PETERSON, "Dynamic Peace," *Inspiration*.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY—**Combating**

In a Southern city there's a man who combats juvenile delinquency on his own. He checks on people who have children to see whether they are staying home with their progeny in the evening. Each hearth-hugger gets \$25 war bond.—*Nat'l Parent-Teacher*, 11-'44.

Sock 'em, Socrates!

Could I climb to the highest place in Athens, I would lift up my voice and proclaim: "Fellow citizens, why do ye turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth and take so little care of your children to whom one day you must relinquish it all?"—SOCRATES, in 400 B C.

MARRIAGE—Servicemen

One of the ugliest aspects of the war is the "allotment wives": women who have sold themselves as surely as tho they had gone to a brothel, but doing it this way they have the blessing of the church and state, plus a monthly allowance as long as the duped husband remains in service, and a big death benefit if he's killed. . . With that \$50 a mo, we're buying a lot of disillusionment for our ret'g servicemen.—MARY K PIRLIE, "Allotment Wives", *She*, 11-'44.



**CONFIDENTIALLY
THRU A
MEGAPHONE**

Those who are hoarding cigarettes for future use may be unpleasantly surprised. Wartime cigarette contains no glycerin, commonly used as a preservative; will rapidly become stale, tasteless. Better take your chances on getting a current pack!

If Sec'y Hull resigns following Big Three meet'g in Dec it will be signal his health has greatly deteriorated. Sec'y has expressed desire to serve thru European peace negotiations. Inside word is that Hull wants Byrnes named as his successor. But Hopkins, and some other New Dealers are opposed. Roosevelt promise to name Byrnes would probably speed Hull's decision to retire.

That move for "subscription radio" in U S has progressed to point where a formal proposal has been submitted to FCC. Idea is patterned on British plan of programs without advertising, sustained by small fee (about \$1.50 a mo). Those who pay fee will have radios beamed to pick up programs. In England, radio is state monopoly under BBC. U S proposal is, of course, forwarded by private group as commercial venture. Firm known as Muzak Corp'n.

Early fears of auto dealers that ceilings on used cars would stimulate black mkt have been pretty well substantiated. Most established sources report sharp decline in sales. As to new cars: Chevrolet told dealers recently. "Make plans on assumption you are never going to get any new cars. Adjust your business so you can operate indefinitely on volume from repairs and parts. Then, when new cars come, you can reorganize."



AVIATION: Boeing last wk displayed small-scale model of double-deck luxury air transport based on B-29 Superfortress. Cruising speed 350 mph; 3500 mi range; to carry 100 passengers, operate at cost 1c per passenger mi. One such cruiser has been built for military.

MEDICINE: New germicide soap, G-11, leaves fewer "resident" germs on Dr's skin after 2 min washing than if he washed for 20 min with ordinary toilet soap. Contains synthetic phenol, dihydroxyhexachlorodiphenyl methane.

MUSIC: Postwar radio set, made by Admiral, displayed in Chicago, offers television, frequency modulation, standard radio and short-wave. Has phonograph with record-changer, slide-away record cabinet and a home-recording device. To sell for \$600 to \$1,000.

Army Special Services div now turns out quarter-million recordings monthly on shatter-resistant plastic "V-Discs." These phonograph records go to fighting men all over world, and to Army hospitals at home.

PRODUCTS: Russian factories soon will start production new-type artificial legs invented by legless Soviet engineer. Inventor demonstrated by walking 7½ mi, against strong wind in 2 hrs 23 min. (*Red Star*, Russian Army organ)

Recently pat'd, a combination periscope, seat and cane enables short people to see things in a crowd. (*Adv & Selling*)

SAFETY—Devices: "Mechanical eye" protects blind workers from dangerous mach'y. Photo-electrically controlled shut-off switch automatically stops machine in 100th of a second when operator's finger approaches danger zone. (*RCA*)

MARRIED LIFE

A henpecked man is one whose wife insists on running everything—and then bawls him out for making her bear the burdens.—*Rob't QUILLEN*, syndicated col.

ORIGINS

Just 500 yrs ago, during a crop failure, a Swiss baker named Pumper Nickel devised a loaf of bread which used up all grain; helped conserve wheat. The pump-ernickel loaf has been sold ever since.—*Prairie Farmer*.

That word "gringo" we once applied to you people of the U S—Grandfather sometimes tells the story of the word. You see, your soldiers, when they invaded our territory, sang a song with the words, "green grows the grass." That's the way the word "gringo" ("green grows") became a name for you.—*Lt J CAESAR CORTES C—*, "What I Like and Dislike About the U S," *Letter*, Fall, '44.

RESEARCH—Value

Within 5 yrs after discovery that phenothiazine was effective for worming livestock, this coal-tar chemical became... worth \$10 million a yr to U S livestock industry... Yet the cost of the discovery was only \$10,000—payment for part-time work of 3 gov't scientists.—*Farm Jnl*.

RUSSIA—Gov't

"But," says Joe Doakes (in an imaginary interview with Jos Stalin) "it looks like you're backing chiefly the pink and Left-wing Poles."

"That's right," replies Marshal Stalin. "We're doing with the Poles just what your American gov'ts have usually done with the Mexicans—and what you're now doing very wisely with the Argentinians. You don't like gov'ts next door that are bitterly opposed to you, and to your way of life. Neither do we. That's a natural precaution—don't you think?"—*LELAND STOWE*, "Can We Do Business With Russia?" *Argosy*, 11-'44.

SCIENCE

Science is marvelous! We're no longer sure whether it's an ordinary

pink pill or a dehydrated water-melon.—*Progressive Grocer*.

SPEECH—Speaking

When an audience applauds at the beginning of a speech it means faith; in the middle of a speech it represents hope; at the end of a speech it is charity.—*BENJAMIN E MAY*.

VISION—Lack

An Army chaplain, flying from Beirut to Cairo, wished to see Jerusalem. As they drew near, a heavy fog rolled in and the city was completely hidden. Later, the pilot said: "If we had flown higher, I think we could have seen it."

How much we miss when we try to view things from too close a perspective!—*The Upper Room*.

WAR BONDS

One thing our ret'g GI's will want to know is why they, risking their necks, bought bonds from foxholes, and a lot of us at home had to have the promise of kissing Lana Turner to buy one.—*BOB CONSDINE*, *INS* foreign correspondent.

WOMEN—and War

If anyone has the impression that GI life in the S Pacific means lolling under palm trees with cafe-au-lait Dorothy Lamours in brief sarongs, he should ask some ret'd GI. Native women? Phooey. They are uglier than sin. They—well, they stink. They chew betel nuts and smoke violent pipes.—*JOSEF ISRAELS II*, (Communications officer U S Maritime service) "Don't Send Women to the Front," *Look*, 11-11-'44. (Author contends a few women at fighting outpost, who confine their dating to officers, are worse for men's morale than none at all.)

WORLD TRADE

The world of tomorrow must not be a restricted world of high walls, high suspicions and high animosities. We have tried that system and it does not work. It will be a world of competition, to be sure, but this competition must be constructive and not destructive.—*ERIC JOHNSTON* (pres U S Chamber of Commerce) to Internat'l Business Conference, Rye, N Y.

Cousin Noel and the Brooklyn Boys

NOEL COWARD, who is almost as much at home in the U S as in his native England, made an unfortunate misstep, when, in the course of his Middle East Diary (Doubleday, \$2.) he penned a casually slighting reference to a group of soldiers from Brooklyn. Maybe in Boston, Baltimore or Biloxi the sentence would have passed unnoted. But you just can't do that to Brooklyn! Poor Noel should have known! The Brooklyn Eagle promptly screamed. The populace was up in arms. Mr Coward, interviewed in Paris, where he is entertaining British troops, professed deep puzzlement. "I don't remember a thing about it," he said, "and I haven't a copy of the book with me. Maybe I met some troops and remarked that they were homesick, but in a hospital most boys of all armies long to be in their own homes."

The incident shouldn't be too much magnified for the British author and playwright has been a consistent friend of the U S; has done much to cement Anglo-American relations, as in this excerpt from same diary:

I came across this same uneasiness often among many of the men I talked to all thru the Middle East. Most of them treated it gaily, made a joke of it, but it was gnawing at them.

This little, not very carefully formulated unhappiness is concerned with the presence in England of American and Dominion troops. I should imagine that a good deal of it has been deliberately fostered by enemy propaganda and by careless and irresponsible letters from home. The press too have contributed by headlining some localised scandal to imply that the incident is the rule rather than the exception.

These men sitting out there in desert camps with nothing much to contend with in the way of enemy action, but a great deal to contend with in the way of loneliness and boredom, jump to conclusions. The conclusions they jump to are fairly obvious and generally wrong, but it is not their fault. They read in the papers of England being overrun with Canadians and Americans flinging their money about and striking up friendships with their sweethearts, sisters and wives. Naturally, jealousy and doubt begin to torment them.

I explained as clearly as I could that they were building up delusions. . . . I can honestly say that at least 90% of the American and Dominion troops I have encountered were behaving as cheerfully and courteously as our own men. The bad behavers are among the left-over 10%. It is madden-

"Brooklyn Boys"

"There was a mixed lot in this particular (S African) hospital, among them about 100 Americans from Salerno. I talked to some tough men from Texas and Arizona; they were magnificent specimens and in great heart, but I was less impressed by some of the mournful little Brooklyn boys lying there in tears amidst the alien corn with nothing worse than a bullet wound in the leg or a fractured arm."

ing to reflect that one arrogant, silly remark, one unkind cut at our war effort or our social and political systems, can wipe from the memory five hundred courtesies. It is still more maddening to see with what relish the cheaper press highlight some scurrilous little incident involving an English girl and an Allied soldier, without realising. . . that they are sowing seeds of suspicion and unhappiness in the minds of thousands of our fighting men who are isolated and far away and have no opportunity of checking up for themselves. This mischievous scandal-mongering is of course doing grave disservice to our war effort and our peace effort too; above all it is carelessly and casually inflicting harm on the men to whom we owe everything and who deserve nothing but the best from us.



GEMS FROM

Yesteryear

Advice to Alcibiades
PLUTARCH

"My design is not to write histories but lives," said PLUTARCH, the great biographer. "The most glorious exploits do not always furnish us with the clearest discoveries of virtue or vice in men; sometimes. . . an expression or a jest informs us better of their characters and inclinations than the most famous sieges, the greatest armaments or the bloodiest battles whatsoever." Thus the biographer worked into his Lives of the Greek and Roman warriors and statesmen many an anecdote and descriptive bit. This excerpt is typical: Alcibiades, was a dilettante who forsook playing flute because it distorted his mouth.

It is related that once Alcibiades, the son of a rich man, spoke to Socrates, asking him:

"How can I become an educated man?"

Said Socrates: "What can you do? Can you drive a mule to the top of Acropolis, carrying one of these shining blocks of marble to put in the parthenon?"

"Oh, no, the muleteer does that."

"Can you drive a chariot?"

"Oh, no, the charioteer does that."

"Alcibiades, can you carve a statue?"

"Oh, no, we have men to carve the statues."

"Can you cook your own dinner?"

"Oh, no, we have cooks to do that."

"Is it not strange," remarked Socrates, "that your father should give his humble servants a better education than he has given his own son?"

And Alcibiades went away sorrowful, for he loved ease and was slothful.

The Sunday School teacher had made a convincing talk on the triumph of good over beauty. As she ended the talk she turned to a ten-year-old pupil and asked, "Now, Alice, which would you rather be—beautiful or good?"

"Well," replied Alice, "I'd rather be beautiful—and repent."—*Reader's Scope*.

" "

Coventry Patmore, the poet, tells how his small boy once threatened his mother:

"If you don't give me that apple, I'll bump my head against the wall!"

"Bump it, dear," said his mother. "But you love me!" shrieked the child in a passion of outraged sentiment.—*Pageant*.

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Army life tends to blot out everything that has preceded it. In filling out a routine biographical form, a 51-yr-old cap't came to the question: "Civilian Occupation." He pondered a moment and then wrote: "Child."—*Current History*.



OF THE WEEK

A man who isn't fired with enthusiasm is apt to be fired with enthusiasm.—*Magazine Digest*.

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Synonyms put punch into the conversation. For example, try calling a Yank a jerk.—*Phoenix Flame*.

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Tobacco is found thruout the Southern United States and in an occasional store.—*Sen SOAPER*.

" "

BIGAMIST: One who marries twice in a wifetime.

GOOD STORIES YOU CAN USE

I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE

LOUIS J ALBER
Lecture Manager

I tried for 20 yrs to get Winston Churchill to come to America for a lecture tour. Finally, after he suffered sharp stock-mkt losses in the '29 crash, I found him receptive.

Only 3 days after his arrival in N Y in '30, the British statesman tried to find the home of Bernard Baruch. He became disgusted when the taxi-driver failed to locate the place (Mr-Churchill had given him the wrong address) and got out of the cab to find the home by foot. He was struck by an auto on 5th ave and seriously injured.

When he regained consciousness in the hospital, one of his 1st questions was, "When in the devil does Berney Baruch live?"

Jas A Bailey, the circus man, once tried to buy a tiger at public auction. Several circus men were present, but the most spirited bidding was carried on by a small chap, plainly not of the circus fraternity. Finally, the tiger was knocked down to him.

Later, Bailey approached the man and tried to buy the animal. The new owner was adamant. "But why do you want a tiger?" persisted Bailey. "You don't own a circus."

"My wife died last month," said the little man, "and I'm lonely."—*Coronet*.

And there is the case of the private on a European front, overheard bemoaning his tough lot. "My gosh, Corporal," he said, "war is almost as bad as basic training!"

" "

The strength of the American Negro soldier is legendary in India, says Edgar Snow (author, *People on Our Side*). One story that spread thru Assam told how an American Negro watched four underfed Indian coolies trying to move a huge log. Presently he interrupted their struggle, spit on his hands, pushed them aside, lifted the log on his shoulders and tossed it over their heads. Then he grinned and said to himself, "Rest yo'se'f, brother, you-all jes' done four days' work."—*Reading and Writing*.

